

Around the World

# U.S. Denounces E. Germany in Spy Case

CPYRGHT

The United States yesterday denounced the conviction of Peter Feinauer, 27, of Providence, R.I., on spying charges by an East German court and promised to seek his early release.

A State Department spokesman said it was "a most serious matter" but declined comment on the allegation that Feinauer, a West Berlin resident since 1959, was a Central Intelligence Agency agent.

The Department termed "unjustified and unconscionable" the fact Feinauer was held since Oct. 7, 1966, under investigative arrest, with no charges placed against him.

An American spokesman in West Berlin said the "travesty of justice" was compounded by a secret trial. Feinauer was sentenced Friday to 15 years in prison.

Western officials in Berlin said the charges were "flimsy and couched in very general terms."

The Department expressed similar concern about Ronald Wiedenhoef, 30, a Columbia University art instructor, arrested Sept. 5 while in East Berlin to gather material for a doctoral thesis.